ket No. 1718-0218PUS1

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. New claim 12 has been added. Claim 8 has been amended to correct punctuation. The claims have been amended to comply with U.S. format requirements.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Leonard R. Svensson, #30,330

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)

1718-0218PUS1

LRS/SWG/sbp